IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of performing data redundancy, said method comprising:

storing a variably sized object capable of changing a number of bytes of data included therein in an object storage device, wherein said variably sized object experiences a period of changing size followed by a period of having a stable size;

temporarily storing a duplicate of said variably sized object in a second object storage device separate from said first object storage device;

converting said variably sized object into any of a grouped object Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) layout and an individual RAID layout as said variably sized object changes in size, wherein said step of converting occurs when a size of said variably sized object remains dormant for a predetermined period of time; and

discarding the duplicate variably sized object.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of converting further comprises determining which of said grouped object RAID layout or individual RAID layout to convert said variably sized object into based on a size of the variably sized object being converted.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of converting into a grouped object RAID layout further comprises selecting a group based on whether said group

comprises other objects similarly sized to said variably sized object.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the similarly sized objects comprise variably sized objects capable of changing a number of bytes of data included therein.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising recomputing a parity of said group to include said variably sized object.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said RAID layout comprises any of a RAID 5, a RAID 6, and a striped RAID layout.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of converting occurs when a predetermined number of variably sized objects have been duplicated.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of converting occurs when said storage devices reach a limit on storage space.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of converting only occurs when a size of said variably sized object remains dormant for a predetermined period of time.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of converting to a grouped object RAID layout further comprises forming a group of similarly sized objects in said grouped object RAID layout.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said similarly sized objects comprise variably sized objects.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising removing the converted variably sized object from said grouped object RAID layout.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising duplicating said converted variably sized object.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of performing data redundancy, said method comprising:

storing a variably sized object capable of changing sizes in a first object storage system, wherein said variably sized object is independent of any other object, and wherein a size of said variably sized object initially remains stable followed by a period of changing sizes followed by a period of being stable;

mirroring said variably sized object;

temporarily storing the mirrored variably sized object in a second object storage system separate from said first object storage system;

converting said variably sized object into any of a grouped object Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) layout and an individual RAID layout upon growth of said variably sized object, wherein said step of converting occurs when a size of said variably sized object remains dormant for a predetermined period of time; and

discarding the mirrored variably sized object.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of converting further comprises determining which of said grouped object RAID layout or individual RAID layout to convert said variably sized object into based on a size of the variably sized object being converted.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of converting into a grouped object RAID layout further comprises selecting a group based on whether said group comprises other objects similarly sized to said variably sized object.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the similarly sized objects comprise variably sized objects capable of changing sizes.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising recomputing a parity of said group to include said variably sized object.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said RAID layout comprises any of a RAID 5, a RAID 6, and a striped RAID layout.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of converting only occurs when a predetermined number of variably sized objects have been mirrored.

21. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of converting occurs when said

storage devices reach a limit on storage space.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of converting occurs when a size of said variably sized object remains dormant for a predetermined period of time.

23. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of converting to a grouped object RAID layout further comprises forming a group of similarly sized objects in said grouped object RAID layout.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said similarly sized objects comprise variably sized objects capable of changing a number of bytes of data included therein.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising removing the converted variably sized object from said grouped object RAID layout.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising duplicating said converted variably sized object.

27. (Currently Amended) A system for performing data redundancy comprising:

a set of object storage devices;

a variably sized object capable of changing sizes by changing a number of bytes of data included therein in a first object storage device, wherein said variably sized object experiences a period of changing size followed by a period of having a stable size;

a redundancy data management controller operable for duplicating said variably sized object;

a second object storage device separate from said first object storage device and operable for temporarily storing the duplicated variably sized object;

a data converter operable for converting said variably sized object into any of a grouped object Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) layout and an individual RAID layout when said object changes in size, wherein said converting occurs when a size of said variably sized object remains dormant for a predetermined period of time; and

a data purger operable for discarding the duplicated variably sized object.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said data converter is operable for determining which of said grouped object RAID layout or individual RAID layout to convert said variably sized object into based on a size of the variably sized object being converted.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said grouped object RAID layout is selected based on determining whether a group comprises other objects similarly sized to said variably sized object.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the similarly sized objects comprise variably sized objects capable of changing sizes by changing a number of bytes of data included therein.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, further comprising a recomputed parity

of said group to include said variably sized object.

32. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein said RAID layout comprises any of a RAID 5, a RAID 6, and a striped RAID layout.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said data converter is triggered when a predetermined number of variably sized objects have been duplicated.

34. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein said data converter is triggered when said storage devices reach a limit on storage space.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein said data converter is triggered only when a size of said variably sized remains dormant for a predetermined period of time.

36. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein said grouped object RAID layout further comprises a group of similarly sized objects in said grouped object RAID layout.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein said similarly sized objects comprise variably sized objects capable of changing a number of bytes of data included therein.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, further comprising means for removing the converted variably sized object from said grouped object RAID layout.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said redundancy data management controller is operable for duplicating said converted variably sized object.

40. (Currently Amended) A system for performing data redundancy comprising:

means for storing a variably sized object capable of changing a number of bytes of data included therein in a first object storage system, wherein said variably sized object is independent of any other object, and wherein a size of said variably sized object initially remains stable followed by a period of changing sizes followed by a period of being stable;

means for mirroring said variably sized object;

means for temporarily storing the mirrored variably sized object in a second object storage system separate from said first object storage system;

means for converting said variably sized object into any of a grouped object Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) layout and an individual RAID layout upon growth of said variably sized object, wherein said converting occurs only when a size of said variably sized object remains dormant for a predetermined period of time; and

means for discarding the mirrored variably sized object.